

In reply to the Final Office Action mailed February 6, 2003, applicants hereby amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

In the Claims

Please amend claims 26, 44, 45, 76, 87 and 92 as follows:

26. (Amended) An anastomotic connector, comprising:
a cylinder-like body; and
at least one set of spikes coupled to said body by twisting joints, wherein said set of spikes are bent and oriented to form a fluid-tight connection between a blood vessel and an opening in a sidewall of another blood vessel.

44. (Amended) An anastomotic connector for attaching two blood vessels, comprising:
a cylinder-like portion defining a lumen; and
a plurality of tissue engaging portions for engaging two blood vessels to form a fluid-tight connection between an opening in a sidewall of one of said two blood vessels and the other of said two blood vessels, said plurality comprising at least one spike, wherein radial expansion of said cylinder-like portion causes said at least one spike to engage tissue.

45. (Amended) An anastomotic connector for attaching two blood vessels, comprising:
a cylinder-like portion defining a lumen; and
a plurality of tissue engaging portions for engaging two blood vessels to form a fluid-tight connection between an opening in a sidewall of one of said two blood vessels and the other of said two blood vessels, wherein radial expansion of said cylinder-like portion is coupled to axial contraction of said cylinder-like portion.

76. (Amended) An anastomotic connector for attaching two blood vessels, comprising:
a cylinder-like portion defining a lumen; and
a plurality of tissue engaging portions for engaging the blood vessels to form a fluid-tight connection between an opening in a sidewall of one of said two blood vessels and the other of said two blood vessels, said plurality comprising, at least two spikes, wherein said two spikes extend differently to engage said tissue.

87. (Amended) An anastomotic connector for attaching two blood vessels, comprising:
a cylinder-like portion defining a lumen; and
a plurality of tissue engaging portions for engaging the two blood vessels to form a fluid-tight

connection between an opening in a sidewall of one of said two blood vessels and the other of said two blood vessels, wherein said connector has at least two configurations, a first configuration in which said tissue engaging portions are at a first extension state and a second configuration wherein said tissue engaging portions are at a second extension state, wherein said connector exhibits a bi-modal behavior in changing from said first configuration to said second configuration.

92. (Amended) An anastomotic connector for attaching two blood vessels, comprising:

a cylinder-like portion defining a lumen; and
a plurality of tissue engaging portions for engaging the two blood vessels to form a fluid-tight connection between an opening in a sidewall of one of said two blood vessels and the other of said two blood vessels, wherein said connector has at least two configurations, a first configuration in which said tissue engaging portions form a vessel piercing tip and a second configuration wherein said tissue engaging portions are operative to engage tissue.